(c) whether Government are considering to regulate the advertisements of soft drinks in the country and add also a few more harmful products; and

(d) if so, by when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) Under Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954, at present there is not such proposal under consideration.

(b) The budgetary allocation for advertisements of soft drink manufacturers does not come under the purview of PFA Act, 1954.

(c) and (d) Under PFA Act 1954, at present there is no such proposal under consideration. However, Rule 43A of PFA Rules, 1955 provides that there shall be no advertisement of any food which is misleading or contravening the provisions of PFA Act, 1954 and rules made thereunder. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have informed that all advertisements have to follow provisions of the Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Netwoks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder.

Shortage of staff in medical colleges

2038. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of teaching staff in medical colleges of Maharashtra State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of teaching staff seats which are vacant since the last two years; and

(c) what are the main reasons behind this and the action Government have taken to fill the vacant seats in medical colleges of Maharashtra State?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) As per inspections carried out by Medical Council of India (MCI) during 2006-07, there is shortage of teaching staff in the following medical colleges in Maharashtra.

1. Rajiv Gandhi Medical College, Thane.
2. Dr. Panjabrao Allied Bhausaheb Deshmukh Memorial Medical College, Amravati.
3. Seth G.S. Medical College, Mumbai.
4. Maharashtra Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Latur.
5. LTM Medical College, Mumbai.
6. K.J. Somaiya Medical College, Mumbai.

(b) and (c) This information is not centrally maintained Action to fill up vacancies of teaching staff is taken by the State Government. However, the Central Government informs the State Governments from time to time to filling up the vacancies.

Authority of CMO in clinical investigations

2039. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the powers of the CMO of the CGHS dispensaries in Delhi with regard to allowing clinical investigations and sanction of medicines;

(b) how does such powers compare with those of the Government specialist doctors;

(c) whether Government have come across variation in the exercise of such power by CMOs in VIP and the ordinary dispensaries causing inconvenience to common beneficiaries; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to ensure that a beneficiary gets maximum medical support at the dispensary level rather than being referred to specialists for normal/routine long term medicines?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) The CMO Incharge of the dispensaries have the power equivalent to specialist doctors to allow clinical investigations as well as get the medicines purchased through local Chemist in emergency.